

BOOK REVIEWS

A PRIMER FOR DIABETIC PATIENTS: An outline of Treatment for Diabetes with Diet, Insulin and Protamine-Zinc Insulin, Including Directions and Charts for the Use of Physicians in Planning Diet Prescriptions. By Russell M. Wilder, M.D., Ph.D., University of Minnesota; Senior Consultant in Division of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Eighth Edition, Reset. 192 pages, with 8 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1946. Price \$1.75.

This small book is written for patients. This, the 8th edition, continues to follow the excellent plan of the preceding editions in that it is written in a concise and non-technical manner, thus enabling patients to properly understand the ultimate goal of therapy.

Although no major changes have been made in the method of treating diabetes, many minor alterations in the procedures heretofore employed have been developed since publication of the 7th edition. These are included in the present volume.

As in the previous editions the author utilizes a procedure of first giving a brief discussion and then outlining, in question form, the salient points of the preceding chapter. The discussions are therapeutically sound, and written in a concise form so that little or no misunderstanding can result. The chapter on Protamine Zinc Insulin includes a brief discussion of the use of mixtures of various insulins which has been recommended by several clinicians as being a satisfactory method of supplying the necessary insulin in a single injection.

There is included in this edition a chapter for the physician, on "Diet" which is a very sound discussion of this part of the therapy for diabetes. Although Dr. Wilder qualifies this chapter by stating that the type of treatment best suited for the individual diabetic patient should be left to the judgment of the physician, he nevertheless summarizes a dietary regime which can be utilized to advantage particularly by those clinicians who treat diabetes infrequently.

Appended are the usual height and weight tables and the various food tables necessary for the patient to properly prepare menus which correspond to the physician's prescription.

This book is one of the better manuals for diabetic patients. It can be studied to advantage by both patients and clinicians.

MANSON'S TROPICAL DISEASES—A MANUAL OF THE DISEASES OF WARM CLIMATES. Edited by Philip H. Manson-Bahr, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A., M.D., D.T.M. and H. Cantab, F.R.C.P., Lond. Senior Physician to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, London, the Albert Dock Hospital and the Tilbury Hospital; Consulting Physician to the Colonial Office and Crown Agents for the Colonies; Consultant in Tropical Diseases to the Admiralty and to the Royal Air Force; Director, Division of Clinical Medicine, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Lecturer on Tropical Medicine to the London Hospital; Corresponding Member of the Société de Pathologie Exotique; Member of the Washington Academy of Medicine; late Examiner in Tropical Medicine to the Conjoint Board of the Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Surgeons, England, and to Cambridge and Hongkong Universities. Author (with A. Alcock) of "The Life and Work of Sir Patrick Manson," 1927; "The Dysenteric Disorders," 1939 and "Synopsis of Tropical Medicine," 1943. Twelfth edition. Cloth. Price, \$12.00. Pp. 1068 with 17 color plates, 9 half-tone plates, 406 figures in the text, 6 maps, and 28 charts. A. William Wood Book. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1945.

The twelfth edition of this standard encyclopedic text is excellent. It reflects the many years of wide experience with tropical diseases which the British have had during their long period of prominence in tropical areas. More specifically it reflects the experiences of Sir Patrick Manson, the author of earlier editions and of Manson-Bahr, who has carried on in later years. In it physicians

will find excellent descriptions of the clinical phases of tropical diseases. The tone of the volume, characteristically British, is conservative.

The chapter on rickettsiosis has been fully revised, and that on leprosy modernized. The latter change in particular is a desirable one.

The author states in the preface that special attention has been devoted to malaria, yellow fever and nutritional diseases. The American clinician with experience in World War II will be somewhat disappointed to find in this book, published in 1945, little data on experiences with suppressive therapy of malaria with chemical substances and on the use of D.D.T. Furthermore, none of the experiences of Americans with filariasis and tsutsugamushi fever in the Pacific Islands are mentioned in the book. Not all of this material was restricted information in 1945. American clinicians will furthermore not be concerned too much with advanced states of deficiency disease in the tropics. Among military personnel these conditions rarely occurred except in prisoners of war, and most natives unmolested do not acquire them. Deficiency disease should hardly be thought of or classified as tropical diseases.

Despite these minor criticisms, this book ranks high and is one of the best on the subject.

QUICK REFERENCE BOOK FOR MEDICINE AND SURGERY. Thirteenth edition. By George E. Rehberger, A.B., M.D. J. B. Lippincott Company. A clinical, diagnostic, and therapeutic digest of general medicine, surgery, and the specialties, compiled systematically from modern literature.

Dr. Rehberger has written an extremely useful book for the general practitioner of medicine. It is encyclopedic in its scope, logical and orderly in development, perhaps a little ponderous in places (some of the material could have been advantageously deleted), but on the whole it is remarkable, especially in the field of therapeutics, where both the art and science of treatment are ably discussed. The information is amazingly up-to-date.

The book is organized for quick reference, because the diseases discussed are arranged in alphabetical order, and for the various specialties it is further refined, since the subject matter of the specialist is set off in sections by thumb tabs. This volume should be on the bookshelf of every clinician.

COMPLETE HANDBOOK ON STATE MEDICINE. By J. Weston Walch. 1946. 170 pages, 8½x11 inches, lithographed. Platform News Publishing Co., Box 66, Pearl St. Station, Portland, Maine. Price \$2.50 per copy.

This is a rather remarkable booklet containing most of the well known arguments for and against compulsory sickness insurance (as exemplified by such measures as the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill). The author has apparently been exposed to some sound reading on the art of debate and the technique of the well tossed argument. The book is not easy reading; the ink on some of the pages of your reviewer's copy printed out a light grey. The absence of double spacing the paragraphs results in crowding too much text on one page.

Despite these defects, the handbook is recommended to all thinking physicians who would be prepared to discuss the problems involved in the wider distribution of medical services with their patients and friends.

UROLOGIC ROENTGENOLOGY. By Miley B. Wesson, M.D., Ex-President American Urological Association, San Francisco, California, second edition, thoroughly revised,